

1. A notebook comprising:

a plurality of sheets of paper bound together, each paper of said plurality of sheets having a generally elongate opening located therein, each opening being aligned with an opening of any adjacent sheets of paper and being sized and shaped to receive a writing instrument therethrough;

5 a cover coupled to said plurality of sheets of paper, said cover being movable to a closed position wherein said cover is generally parallel to and faces a top sheet of said plurality of sheets of paper, said cover having at least one of a thickness or stiffness that is greater than each sheet of said plurality of sheets of paper; and

a retaining mechanism to retain said cover in said closed position.

2. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said cover lacks any opening that is of the same size and shape of said opening of said sheets of paper that is aligned with said opening of each sheet of paper.

3. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of sheets of paper and said cover are generally aligned.

4. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of sheets of paper includes a plurality of lines printed thereon.

5. The notebook of claim 1 further including a binding mechanism binding said sheets of paper and said cover together.

6. The notebook of claim 5 wherein said binding mechanism is a spiral binder.

7. The notebook of claim 5 wherein said generally elongate openings are located generally adjacent to said binding mechanism.

8. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said cover is pivotally bound to said plurality of sheets of paper such that said cover is movable to an open position in which the cover is generally not parallel with said plurality of sheets of paper.

9. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said cover lacks any openings of equal or greater size than said generally elongate openings of said plurality of sheets of paper.

10. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each of said sheets and said cover include a plurality of binding holes located adjacent to an inner edge thereof.

11. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said notebook further includes a supplemental cover pivotally coupled to said plurality of sheets of paper, wherein said retaining mechanism includes a flap coupled to said supplemental cover which can be removably coupled to said cover to retain said cover in said closed position.

12. The notebook of claim 11 wherein said one of said cover or said supplemental cover includes a male snap portion and the other ones of said cover or said supplemental cover includes a female snap portion, wherein said male snap portion and said female snap portion can cooperate to maintain said cover in said closed position.

13. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each opening includes an enlarged portion.

14. The notebook of claim 13 wherein said enlarged portion is generally centrally located along a length of each opening.

15. The notebook of claim 13 wherein said enlarged portion extends at least partially in a direction generally perpendicular to a length of each opening.

16. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each opening is at least about six inches in length.

17. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each opening includes a length-to-width ratio of at least about 6:1.

18. The notebook of claim 1 further including a writing instrument located in said generally elongate openings.

19. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each sheet includes a tear guide line extending generally parallel to an edge of each paper such that each sheet can be torn along its associated tear guideline and removed from said notebook.

20. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said cover covers at least about 50% of said openings of said sheets of paper.

21. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said cover is configured to retain a writing instrument located in said openings when a writing instruments is located in said openings and said cover is retained in said closed position by said retaining mechanism.

22. The notebook of claim 1 wherein said cover is configured to retain a writing instrument located in said openings when a writing instruments having a length of at least about 6 inches is located in said openings and said cover is retained in said closed position by said retaining mechanism.

23. The notebook of claim 1 wherein each opening is sized to receive a writing instrument having a length of between about 4 inches and about 7 inches, and having a width of between about 1/8 inch and about 1 inch, and wherein said cover lacks any opening that would allow such a writing instrument to pass therethrough while said writing instrument remains
5 generally parallel to said cover.

24. A notebook comprising:

a plurality of sheets of paper bound together, each paper of said plurality of sheets having a generally elongate opening located therein, each opening being aligned with an opening of any adjacent sheets of paper and being sized and shaped to receive a writing instrument therethrough;

5 a cover coupled to said plurality of sheets of paper, said cover being movable to a closed position wherein said cover is generally parallel and faces a top sheet of said plurality of sheets of paper, said cover lacking any opening that would allow a writing instrument to pass therethrough while said writing instrument remains generally parallel to said cover; and
a retaining mechanism to retain said cover in said closed position.

25. A notebook comprising:

a plurality of sheets of paper bound together, each paper of said plurality of sheets having a generally elongate opening located therein, each opening being aligned with an opening of any adjacent sheets of paper and being sized and shaped to receive a writing instrument therethrough;

5 a cover coupled to said plurality of sheets of paper, said cover being movable to a closed position wherein said cover is generally parallel to and faces a top sheet of said plurality of sheets of paper, wherein said cover lacks any opening that is of the same size and shape of said opening of said sheets of paper that is aligned with said opening of each sheet of paper; and

a retaining mechanism to retain said cover in said closed position.

26. A notebook comprising:

a plurality of sheets of paper bound together, each paper of said plurality of sheets having a generally elongate opening located therein, each opening being aligned with an opening of any adjacent sheets of paper and being sized and shaped to receive a writing instrument therethrough;

5 a front cover coupled to said plurality of sheets of paper, said front cover having at least one of a thickness or stiffness that is greater than each sheet of said plurality of sheets of paper; and

a rear cover coupled to said plurality of sheets of paper, said rear cover having at least one of a thickness or stiffness that is greater than each sheet of said plurality of sheets of paper,
10 said notebook being movable to a closed position wherein said front cover and said rear cover are generally parallel and said plurality of sheets of paper are located between said front and rear cover, and wherein said front and rear covers are releasably attachable together to retain said notebook in said closed position.